Lending Institutions (PLIs) including the Commercial Banks. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has, however, a refinance scheme for the PLIs in respect of financial assistance extended by them for rehabilitation of sick SSI units.

(b) The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter alia*, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter-Institutional Committees, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State Financial Institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, with a view to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government have announced a Comprehensive Policy Package which consists of *inter-alia* enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

Production and demand of Khadi Industry

†2727. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of future production capacity and demand of Khadi Industry during the ensuing decade;

(b) whether Government have discussed this matter with the Commerce Ministry to identify markets for Khadi garments for export; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide subsidies to the Khadi producers and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. However, a Subgroup (on KVI Sector) of Working Group on Small Scale Industry (SSI) for 10th Plan has formulated production and employment targets under Khadi upto 2006-07.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Normal rebate and special rebates are given by the KVIC. Under the Khadi Package, announced on 14.5.2001, these rebates are envisaged to continue for 5 years.

New Avenues for KVIC

2728. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether is is a fact that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission proposes to diversify its activities by taking up the items other than Khadi products;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether a Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission to go into the working of the KVIC has recommended for opening up of new avenues to achieve better business opportunities for improving its financial situation;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(d) the decision taken in the matter particularly with regard to the financial health of KVIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already promoting various items other than khadi products under village industries programme.

(b) to (d) A High Power Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission to suggest suitable measures for strengthening the Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) sector. Based on the recommendations made by the Committee, a package for KVI Sector was announced by the Government on 14.05.2001. The salient features of the package consist of Rebate Policy for five years, options of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development, focus on core areas and provision of additional working capital.

Package for Small Scale Industries Sector

2729. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study group of the Planning Commission has recently recommended substantial package for the small scale industries sector;

(b) if so, the details of the financial pacakge; and

(c) what are the other details of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Study Group on Development of Small Scale Enterprises has recommended the creation of funds of:—

(i) Rs. 2000 crores for adequate infrastructure facilities to small scale enterprises;

(ii) Rs. 1000 crores for establishment of Incubation Centres;

(iii) Rs. 5000 crores under technology upgradation and modernisation fund with an interest subsidy of five percent; and